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25. (new) A variant according to claim 23 wherein the amino acid mutation is in the B domain and/or the C domain of the HBV DNA polymerase.

26. (new) A variant according to claim 23 comprising a mutation in one or more of amino acids within the sequence:

Q/K T Y/F G R/W KLHL Y/L S/A HPI I/V LGFRK I/L PMG V/G GLS PFLL

AQFTSAI C/L S (SEQ ID NO:25)

of HBV DNA polymerase.

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27. (new) A variant according to claim 26 comprising a mutation in one or more amino acids within the sequence:

S/A HPI I/V LGFRK I/L PMG V/G GLSPFLLAQFTSAIC/L S (SEQ ID NO:44)

of HBV DNA polymerase.

28. (new) A variant according to claim 23 comprising a nucleotide sequence which encodes a DNA polymerase having the amino acid sequence:

X₁HPIX₂LGX₃RKX₄PMGX₅GLSX₆FLX₇AQFTSAX₈X₉ (SEQ ID NO:27)

X₁₀FX₁₁YX₁₂DDX₁₃VLGAX₁₄X₁₅ (SEQ ID NO:28)

wherein X₁ is S or A;

X₂ is I or V;

X₃ is F or L;

X₄ is I or L;

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X_5 is L or V or G;

X_6 is P or L;

X_7 is L or M;

X_8 is I or L;

X_9 is C or L;

X_{10} is A or V;

X_{11} is S or A;

X_{12} is M or I or V;

X_{13} is V or L or M;

X_{14} is K or R; and/or

X_{15} S or T;

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and wherein said variant exhibits reduced sensitivity to a nucleoside analogue, such as famciclovir (penciclovir) and/or lamivudine (3TC).

29. (new) A variant according to claim 23 having a mutation in one or more of amino acids 118 to 169 or 169 to 207 of HBV surface antigen.

30. (new) A variant according to claim 29 comprising a DNA polymerase having the amino acid sequence:

$X_{16}T X_{17}X_{18}X_{19}K L H L X_{20}X_{21}H P I X_{22}L G X_3R K X_4P M G X_5G L S X_6F L X_7A Q F T S A X_8X_9 \dots$

(SEQ ID NO:42)

$X_{10}F X_{11}Y M_{12}D D X_{13}V L G A X_{14}X_{15}$ (SEQ ID NO:43)

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wherein: X_{16} is Q or K;
 X_{17} is Y or F;
 X_{18} is G;
 X_{19} is R or W or E;
 X_{20} is Y or L;
 X_{21} is S or A;
 X_{22} is I or V;
 X_3 is F or L;
 X_4 is I or L;
 X_5 is L or V or G;
 X_6 is P or L;
 X_7 is L or M;
 X_8 is I or L;
 X_9 is C or L;
 ~~X_{10} is A or V;~~
 ~~X_{11} is S or A;~~
 ~~X_{12} is M or I or V;~~
 ~~X_{13} is V or L or M;~~
 X_{14} is K or R; and/or
 X_{15} S or T;

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cont'd

and wherein said variant exhibits reduced sensitivity to a nucleoside analogue, such as famciclovir (penciclovir) and/or lamivudine (3TC).